

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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OES-03 FEA-01 /094 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8520

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CMCONSUL HONG KONG 5706

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1011

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, PFOR, MNUC, TW

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE YUAN ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: STRENGTHENING THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY RESEARCH

REF: 75 TAIPEI 7971, 75 TAIPEI 6136

1. A PRELIMINARY SCANNING OF THE FEBRUARY EXECUTIVE YUAN  
ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT JUST RELEASED, REVEALS ONE SECTION OF  
MORE THAN ROUTINE INTEREST ON ATOMIC ENERGY, ANNOUNCING THE  
FORMATION OF A "JOINT RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR FUEL".  
THE COMMITTEE, COMPOSED OF PERSONNEL FROM THE ATOMIC ENERGY  
COMMISSION, THE INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY RESEARCH, THE  
TAIWAN POWER COMPANY AND THE NATIONAL TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY,  
WILL "OVER THE LONG RANGE ... STUDY THE TECHNIQUES OF PRO-  
DUCING NUCLEAR FUEL ELEMENTS TO BE USED BY ROC NUCLEAR POWER  
PLANTS AND ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY". IN THE  
MEANTIME, THE REPORT STATES, THE ROC WILL CONTINUE  
TO PURCHASE NATURAL URANIUM AND ENRICHMENT SERVICES FROM  
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SOUTH AFRICA AND THE US, WHILE THE INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR

ENERGY RESEARCH AND THE TAIWAN POWER COMPANY WILL STUDY WHETHER TO MAKE THE FUEL ELEMENTS IN THE ROC OR NEGOTIATE THEIR MANUFACTURE BY AMERICAN FIRMS.

2. TAIPEI MEDIA, IN ADDITION TO PUBLICIZING THE NUCLEAR SECTION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT, HAVE PUBLISHED OTHER ARTICLES REGARDING NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT IN THE PAST FEW DAYS. A CNA-REPORTED FEB 9 WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE ON THE ROC'S NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM, WIDELY CARRIED IN THE VERNACULAR PRESS, CLAIMED THE ROC DID NOT WANT TO RUN THE RISK OF DEVELOPINGNUCLEAR WEAPONS DESPITE ITS SCIENTIFIC ABILITY TO DO SO. THE ENGLISH "EXPRESS NEWS" VERSIONS OF THE SAME ARTICLE CLAIMED CCK HAS STATED THAT THE ROC DOES NOT HAVE AND WILL NOT BUILD A NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT. THE LIEN HO PAO FEB 11REPORTED GROC SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDS, NT\$2 BILLION IN 1975, WILL BE INCREASED TO NT\$3 BILLION IN 1976. THE NATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL OF THE EXECUTIVE YUAN WILL ALLOCATE THE MONIES AMONG A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS, INCLUDING "PEACEFUL USE OF ATOMIC SCIENCE".

3. COMMENT: THE GROC APPEARS TO BE CONTINUING TO MOVE IN A DIRECTION WHICH ADDS TO ITS NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. FUTURE DELIBERATIONS OF THE "JOINT RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR FUEL" ARE LIKELY TO AT LEAST RAISE THE ISSUE OF A SPENT FUEL REPROCESSING CAPABILITY.

4. OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST IN THE FEBRUARY REPORT WILL BE REPORTED AS WARRANTED AFTER THE EMBASSY HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE IT IN MORE DETAIL. POPPLE

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